

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

## CERTIFIED MAIL # RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Steve Niswander Vice President of Safety & Compliance Groendyke Transport P.O. Box 632 Enid, OK 73702

Re: Notice of Violations AED/MSEB # 6053

Dear Mr. Niswander:

On February 5, 2001, QuikTrip Corporation ("QuikTrip") notified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the existence of violations of the reformulated gasoline regulations, 40 C.F.R. Part 80, subpart D (the "RFG regulations"). QuikTrip advised EPA that your organization, Groendyke Transport, is a carrier under contract with QuikTrip. QuikTrip further advised that a new driver for Groendyke Transport made two misdeliveries of conventional gasoline (CG) to QuikTrip retail outlets located within the St Louis Opt-in area which requires the use of RFG. (See enclosure.)

Where inappropriate fuels are used in internal combustion engines, the emission of harmful gases can increase significantly. Notwithstanding improvements in vehicle emission control, emissions from motor vehicles continue to make up a very large portion of all air pollution. Congress has established a program of improvements and regulation of fuels to protect our air quality from unnecessary pollution associated with the misfueling of vehicles.

Section 80.78(a)(1) of the RFG regulations prohibits any person from transferring gasoline as reformulated gasoline into a

covered area requiring RFG, unless the gasoline and its transfer document complies with the RFG gasoline standards and record requirements under that section. The Clean Air Act at 42 U.S.C. § 7524 and the RFG regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 80.80(a) subject violators of the RFG regulations to a maximum civil penalty of up to \$27,500 per continuing day for each violation occurring after January 30, 1997, plus the amount of any economic benefit or savings resulting from each violation.

As a result of the February 5, 2001 disclosures by QuikTrip, EPA has determined that Groendyke Transport misdelivered CG to retail outlets within the St Louis, MO RFG Opt-in area on two occasions on January 7, 2001. (See enclosure.) This constitutes at least two (2) violations of 40 C.F.R. § 80.78(a). As the carrier who dispensed, supplied, stored, or transported this CG gasoline found to be in violation, and as the person who caused these violations, Groendyke Transport is liable for these violations pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 80.79(a)(4).

Sections 211 and 205 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7545 and 7524, authorize the Administrator of the EPA to assess a civil penalty of up to \$27,500 for every day of such violation occurring after January 30, 1997, plus the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violations. Rather than initiating litigation, we propose a civil penalty for the violations alleged in this Notice of Violations of five thousand two hundred and eighty dollars (\$5280).

EPA encourages settlement of such matters rather than initiating litigation. The settlement process provides substantial flexibility for reducing the statutory penalty, particularly if the alleged violations have been corrected promptly and steps have been taken to ensure future compliance. If we cannot settle this matter promptly, we reserve the right to file an administrative complaint or refer this matter to the U.S. Department of Justice with a recommendation to file a civil complaint in federal district court.

The EPA attorney designated below has been assigned to this case. Please contact him regarding this Notice of Violations.

Jeffrey A. Kodish, Attorney/Advisor U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Western Field Office 12345 West Alameda Parkway, Suite 214 Denver, CO 80228 (303) 236-9511

Please let me emphasize that while we take our obligation to enforce these requirements seriously, we will make every effort to reach an equitable settlement in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce C. Buckheit, Director Air Enforcement Division

Enclosure

## Attachment

Misdeliveries of CG gasoline by Groendyke Transport to Retail Outlets in the St Louis, MO RFG Opt-in Area

Facility at which Misdelivery Occurred	Date of Misdelivery	Gallons of CG Misdelivered
QuikTrip Store #628 Dunn Road St Louis, MO	January 7, 2001	9401
QuikTrip Store #612 North Hanley Road Berkeley, MO	January 7, 2001	7097